

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 ITC-01
/078 W

-----015362 140919Z/10

R 131650Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7842
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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USEEC

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: EEC, EAID, ETRD, ASEAN
SUBJECT: JULY 11 MEETING OF EC-ASEAN AMBASSADORS

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 7117, (B) BRUSSELS 10789

1. JULY 11 MEETING OF EC-NINE-ASEAN AMBASSADORS IN
BRUSSELS WAS DEVOTED TO EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON PROCEDURAL
AND SUBSTANTIVE PREPARATIONS FOR THE FIRST EC-ASEAN
MINISTERIAL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 20 (REF (A)).

2. CONCERNING PROCEDURE, IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE TWO
SIDES WOULD BE REPRESENTED BY FOREIGN MINISTERS; ACCORD-
ING TO BOTH EC REPS AND LOCAL ASEAN EMBASSY OFFI-
CIALS, THIS REFLECTS THE "POLITICAL" SIGNIFICANCE OF THE
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GROWING DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE TWO REGIONS. IN PLENARY,
DISCUSSION ON EACH SIDE WILL BE LED BY A SINGLE SPOKES-
MAN, WHILE IN INFORMAL ENCOUNTERS, I.E., LUNCH AND DINNER
MEETINGS DESIGNED TO STIMULATE A FREE-FLOWING EXCHANGE,
IT WAS AGREED THERE WILL BE NO PARTICULAR ORDER OF PARTIC-
IPATION.

3. ON THE SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 20 MEETING, EC PERMANENT DELEGATION OFFICIALS SAY THREE PRINCIPAL SUBJECTS WERE MUTUALLY APPROVED BY AMBASSADORS: (1) GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ISSUES, INCLUDING NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE, ETC.; (2) EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON PROCESS OF INTEGRATION WITHIN THE TWO REGIONS, INCLUDING THE LESSONS ASEAN MEMBERS MAY DERIVE FROM EC-9 EXPERIENCE; AND (3) FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF EC-ASEAN RELATIONS. THE LATTER SUBJECT, ON THE BASIS OF EARLIER EC-ASEAN EXCHANGES AT THE WORKING LEVEL (REF (B)), WAS ORIGINALLY TO HAVE BEEN LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING SUB-ELEMENTS: RAW MATERIALS, INCLUDING POSSIBLE LONG-TERM CONTRACTS COVERING EC COMMODITY IMPORTS; INVESTMENT PROMOTION, INCLUDING EC SPONSORSHIP OF FEASIBILITY STUDIES OF ASEAN INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS; DEVELOPMENT AID; EFFORTS TO PROMOTE GREATER ASEAN REGIONAL INTEGRATION; WORKER TRAINING, TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY; AND SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL COOPERATION. WE UNDERSTAND FROM EC PERMANENT DELEGATION SOURCES, HOWEVER, THAT ASEAN AMBASSADORS PROPOSED THREE AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS:

-- INCLUSION OF A SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEM ON "TRADE," COMPLEMENTING THE ONE ON RAW MATERIALS (WHILE THIS PROPOSAL HAS NOT BEEN EXPLAINED IN DETAIL, A LOCAL MALAYSIAN EMBASSY SOURCE SAYS ASEAN IS CONCERNED THAT THE COMMUNITY TREAT IT AS AN "EQUAL TRADING PARTNER" AND, IN THIS CONFIDENTIAL

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TEXT, GIVE CONSIDERATION TO ASEAN'S REQUEST FOR IMPROVED ACCESS TO EC-9 MARKETS FOR EXPORTS OF MANUFACTURES);

-- FINANCIAL COOPERATION (HERE ASEAN REPORTEDLY WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE PRIVATE, AS OPPOSED TO OFFICIAL, DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, AS WELL AS MEASURES TO FACILITATE ACCESS TO WESTERN CAPITAL MARKETS);

-- UMBRELLA COOPERATION AGREEMENT (THE ASEAN GROUP, REPORTEDLY HAS IN MIND A NON-PREFERENTIAL ARRANGEMENT, PERHAPS ON THE EC-CANADA MODEL, TO SERVE AS A "FRAMEWORK" FOR PURSUING THE SPECIFIC ELEMENTS DESCRIBED ABOVE; ON NOVEMBER 20 THE EC SIDE WILL LIKELY ONLY AGREE TO EXPLORE THIS QUESTION AT A LATER DATE).

3. THE EC AMBASSADORS SIMPLY TOOK NOTE OF THEIR COUNTER-PARTS' SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA; A "CONTACT GROUP" (COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EC PRESIDENCY, EC COMMISSION AND LOCAL ASEAN AMBASSADORS) WAS REQUESTED TO EXAMINE THEM IN GREATER DETAIL IN COMING WEEKS AND REPORT BACK TO A FURTHER MEETING OF THE AMBASSADORIAL DIALOGUE, POSSIBLY IN THE FALL.

4. COMMENT: BASED ON MISSION OFFICERS' RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH LOCAL EMBASSY OFFICIALS FROM ASEAN MEMBER STATES AND EC PERMDEL REPRESENTATIVES, THE TWO SIDES GENERALLY APPEAR TO BE PLACING PRIMARY EMPHASIS ON THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF NOVEMBER MINISTERIAL MEETING AS HIGHLIGHTING THE GROWING INTERDEPENDENCE AND ECONOMIC INTERACTION BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. WHILE SYMBOLIC IMPORTANCE OF MEETING IS CLEARLY THE OVERRIDING CONCERN AT PRESENT TIME, MISSION ANTICIPATES, AS DO EC PERMDEL REPS WITH WHOM WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE MATTER, THAT ASEAN WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS THE COMMUNITY IN COMING MONTHS FOR CONCRETE ECONOMIC AND TRADE CONCESSIONS, INCLUDING SUCH TIME-HONORED REQUESTS AS REGIONAL STABEX ARRANGEMENT (BRUSSELS 7622), IMPROVEMENTS IN

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GSP (77 BRUSSELS 17857), ETC. EC PERMDEL OFFICIALS ARE AT

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LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 ITC-01
/078 W

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R 131650Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7843

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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ONE, HOWEVER, IN TELLING US THAT ARRANGEMENTS OF THIS TYPE,

INCLUDING A PREFERENTIAL TRADING ACCORD, SIMPLY ARE "NOT
ON" FROM THE COMMUNITY STANDPOINT. HINTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PLANNING MEETINGS, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, RELATIONS WITH REGIONAL ORGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jul 1978
Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRUSSE13750
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780288-0995
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS USEEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780766/aaaacdhy.tel
Line Count: 172
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 77c07e76-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BRUSSELS 7117, 78 BRUSSELS 10789
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2026158
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JULY 11 MEETING OF EC-ASEAN AMBASSADORS
TAGS: EAID, ETRD, EEC, ASEAN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/77c07e76-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014